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NFAC 4820-78

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

31 October 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : National Intelligence Officer for Warning
Director, National Foreign Assessment Center

FROM : Acting National Intelligence Officer for
East Asia and the Pacific

SUBJECT : Monthly Warning Meeting for East Asia

1. After Dick Lehman's concept briefing, the East Asia group made a tour of the Asian horizon. The discussion was somewhat disjointed, but this only reflected that we have as yet not developed a common understanding as to purpose. This will come, I believe, in short order.

2. Likely developments over the next two to three months center around Indochina and Korea.

-- Vietnam - Cambodia

The key issue in Indochina is whether the Pol Pot regime can hold together and what the Chinese may do to support it. If Pol Pot is overthrown, ☐ other Southeast Asian nations, especially the Thais, would be very concerned.

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With the start of this year's dry season, combined with new Soviet military deliveries to Vietnam, there is increased possibility of Vietnamese military moves along the Vietnam-Cambodia border.

There is a possibility that the Pol Pot regime may fall under such pressure, although the odds are probably 70 to 30 against it. In the meantime, the Vietnamese will continue their efforts to build an insurgent political organization that would legitimize Vietnamese-based guerrilla efforts to overthrow the Cambodian regime.

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-- Korea

During the next two to three months, there is likely to be a higher level of North Korean military training--especially armor training. This will probably coincide with the pullback of the first US battalion from the Joint Security Area. The stepped-up military training will not necessarily signal an intention to attack, however; it is in keeping with the North's continuing program of improved military training exercises.

There is a real possibility of student demonstrations--with the attendant probability of more arrests by the government of critics of Pak--as the National Assembly elections of 12 December draw near. There is also some danger of demonstrations in connection with Secretary of Defense Brown's visit to Seoul in November.



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MEMO FOR DCI VIA NIO/WARNING, D/NFAC from Acting NIO/EAP,
dated 31 October 1978, Subject: Monthly Warning Meeting
for East Asia

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